

**City of Greenfield, Massachusetts**  
**Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)**

Remote Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday 1/28/2021, 5:00-6:30pm

**Minutes**

**Attending:** Nancy Hazard, George Touloumtzis, Carole Collins, Jacob Frank, Tara Kurland, Phil Elmer, Marlo Warner, Hannah Rechtschaffen, MJ Adams, Jay Lord, Mike Pattavina

**Guests:** Lindsay Rowe, Lorraine Pearson **Clerk:** Laurie DiDonato

Meeting called to order: 5:03 pm

**Progress toward our goals – reports**

**MJ Adams**, Director Community & Economic Development, fills the Department of Planning & Development seat

- National Bank Building -Redevelopment Authority received a new feasibility study. They are putting the idea of a cultural space aside, and putting out RFP for other ideas
- Shared Streets – 2<sup>nd</sup> phase in process. Chatting with Barr Foundation about exploring shutting off Court Square to traffic more often.
- Homeless – Daytime shelter on High St, and expanded overnight shelter opened!
- Economic Recovery grant – working
- Downtown Assessment and Market Analysis report finalized and in hand

**Marlo Warner**, DPW director, fills DPW seat -

- Grant received for purchasing generator for well at Millbrook! Oak Hill already has one, so now we have a system that will enable water to be available in the event of a prolonged power outage

**Lindsay Rowe**, guest, Community Development Administrator –

- West Street updates finalized!

**Nancy Hazard**, At Large member –

- Celebrating Biden/Harris inauguration & Amada Gordon's poem!
- Celebrating Town Council's adoption of new Subdivision Regulations that the Planning Board worked on that have Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development (LID) integrated into them. Particularly pleased that there is a strong recommendation to plant NATIVE trees, shrink lawns and roads.

**Jacob Frank**, GHS senior, fills Youth seat

- GHS Env Club is focusing on creating a Cooler Communities program. Students will do projects around sustainability issues, and community members will be asked to make pledges to reduce fossil fuel use. Reaching out to teachers now. It will be a remote event.

**Phil Elmer**, City Council representative –

- Voted to adopt new Subdivision regulations
- RE next meeting – worked on securing a real estate broker/developer

**George Touloumtzis**, Planning Board (PB) representative –

- PB has been working on marijuana cultivation regulations & zoning. There are several proposals, and a request to lift the tier 1 cap above 10,000 sq. ft. In the case of the applicant who wanted to use former Indoor Action site, the PB did not want to lift the cap, because they feared unintended consequences – that large structures for marijuana growing would be built on good farmland. Instead they are recommending that the zoning be changed to General Commercial. There will be a hearing on Feb 9, PB/ZBA.

**Jay Lord**, At Large member -passed

**Carole Collins**, Director, Energy & Sustainability

- Celebration election/inauguration & her daughters 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday!
- Thrilled that cost of recycling is going down
- Feeling inspired!

**Tara Kurkland**, At Large member

- Appreciating DPW – Especially their care of the Parks – and Ice skating rink at Beacon Field!

**Laurie DiDonato**, SGIC support staff, and Energy & Sustainability staff

- Appreciating Greenfield Parks & Rec – Winter Carnival looks awesome!

**Mike Pattavina**, At Large member

- Thrilled about progress in finding new, local, more affordable solutions for recycling. Holyoke is taking on dealing with glass, and MRF is playing a very important role

**Hannah Rechtschaffen**, At Large member

- Excited that Greenfield Cultural Council will give out more grants than in the past, and she is excited about the recipients, which have not yet been announced!

**December Minutes** - George made a motion to approve the December minutes, MJ seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Housekeeping Issues** – This is the time of year for committee reorganization. Next meeting people should come prepared for nominations. Jacob Frank's membership will expire soon. He is interested in continuing on the committee. Carole will contact the Mayor's office to make that happen.

### **DPW Update**

Marlo provided an update on progress with the City's sludge disposal issue. Previously, Greenfield trucked its sludge to Lowell to be disposed of, and sometimes needed to add water to the sludge because it was too thick. Costs have gone up significantly in recent years and the City has been exploring ways to handle sludge onsite. Plans to have a regional anaerobic digester have become complicated due to PFA and PFO regulations. Greenfield sludge does not register any of these chemicals, and we would only be able to accept sludge of similar caliber, so this would reduce the number of towns that could participate. As an alternative, the DPW is undergoing a pilot project to see if dewatering on-site would be cost effective. The City has been trucking their sludge to Hookset, NH which has a dewatering facility, and the outcome has been positive. The resulting product from dewatering is pelletized sludge that can be used as fertilizer. 9000 gallons of sludge is transformed into 3 cubic yards of fertilizer. A feasibility study is now underway to look at setting up a dewatering system on-site at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The cost will likely be within the amount that has already been appropriated for the anaerobic digester. It will still be possible to add an anaerobic digester in the future.

### **Downtown Assessment Report**

MJ reported on the completion of the Downtown Business Assessment and Market Analysis. The analysis identifies the challenges and strengths of Greenfield Downtown as well as specific COVID impacts. Analysis provided key information including how residents spend money, where economic leakage occurs, the types of businesses present, whether they are locally owned or franchises, etc. Other points of discussion included:

- How online retail will play a factor in future businesses in the downtown.
- An awareness of COVID impacts such as higher demand for housing.
- There were mixed data about parking, with businesses tending to be unhappy with it.
- Homelessness/panhandling was a predominant issue, so strategies are needed. A

panhandle task force in Northampton has had some success. A next step is to update the Downtown Master Plan. There is funding available for this through CDBG or the Local Rapid Recovery grant program. There is interest in bringing together other key groups for a discussion on this analysis, possibly having a public meeting.

### **CDBG Update**

Lindsay provided an update on the CDBG projects (handout available). Highlights include:

- Landlord outreach on eviction issues, energy efficiency, GCET ongoing and good turnout
- FY17 grant complete!
- Microenterprise assistance program has awarded 6 grants totaling \$30,000
- CDBG-Covid grants have been awarded to 20 applicants totaling over \$152,000

Next meeting Tim Grader will attend to discuss real estate trends. Phil would like members to send questions to him ahead of time if possible. Hannah asked whether we could post on Facebook when there is a guest speaker. It was agreed we would need permission from the speaker and should schedule the speaker first on the agenda so the timing is clear for any posting.

**Next Meeting** – February 25th, 5:00-6:30 pm via Zoom.

Adjourned at 6:35 pm